

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 01286

E. O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: EFIS, GW
SUBJ: SOVIET ANTARCTIC FISHING
C-GC-7-55014

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1. THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BELOW IS BASED ON REPORTS
FROM A RESEARCH MISSION OF THE FRG GOVERNMENT IN THE
SOUTH GEORGIA AREA DURING NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1977. THE
GERMAN VOYAGE WAS PURELY OF A RESEARCH NATURE
CONSISTING OF ONE RESEARCH VESSEL AND A TRAWLER.

2. ANSWERS KEYED TO PARAGRAPHS 5 & 6 OF REFTEL.

5. A & B -- IN NOVEMBER 1977 FRG MISSION
OBSERVED AT LEAST 15 SOVIET TRAWLERS, NEAR SOUTH
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GEORGIA. THE TRAWLERS WERE NEW MODELS. WHEN ASKED BY
FRG SCIENTISTS, WHAT THEY WERE FISHING FOR, THE SOVIETS
REPLIED THAT THEY WERE FISHING EXCLUSIVELY ON THE
OCEAN FLOOR, BUT WERE HAVING LITTLE SUCCESS.

IN EARLY DECEMBER, A LARGE SOVIET SUPPLY SHIP WAS
SPOTTED AT SOUTH GEORGIA AND THE SIZE OF THE FISHING

FLEET HAD INCREASED TO MORE THAN FORTY LARGE TRAWLERS.

RADAR READINGS INDICATED ANOTHER GROUP OF THIRTY-THREE TRAWLERS ENGAGED IN OCEAN FLOOR FISHING, NORTH-EAST OF GRITVIKEN. MORE SIGHTINGS WERE MADE AT THIS TIME TO THE EAST AND SOUTH OF SOUTH GEORGIA.

THE REPORT CONCLUDES THAT MOST FISHING WAS ON OCEAN FLOOR, YIELDING 2-3 METRIC TONS PER CATCH. LITTLE KRILL WAS TAKEN.

5. C -- OFFICIAL FELT RELUCTANT TO ASSESS ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF KRILL INDUSTRY. HE MENTIONED THAT KRILL WAS SOLD AS A PASTE IN THE SOVIET UNION, BUT DID NOT KNOW OF ANY ATTEMPTS TO MARKET THE PRODUCT WORLD WIDE. HE MENTIONED IN THIS CONNECTION, THAT THE FRG HAS DEVELOPED THE TECHNOLOGY TO FISH FOR KRILL, BUT THE ECONOMIC JUSTIFICATION DOES NOT YET EXIST.

5. D -- OFFICIAL SPECULATED THAT BECAUSE OF SOVIET FOOD NEEDS, ANTARCTIC FISHING WILL CONTINUE.

6. -- OTHER COUNTRIES INTERESTED IN ANTARCTIC FISHING ARE POLAND, JAPAN AND CHILE. DURING THE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER EXPEDITION FIVE LARGE POLISH TRAWLERS
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WERE SEEN. THEY TOO WERE FISHING THE OCEAN BOTTOM, BUT STATED THEY WOULD ALSO FISH FOR KRILL.

JAPANESE PARTICIPATION, AS REPORTED IN THE PRESS, INCLUDES AN EXPEDITION IN JANUARY 1978 TO THE SCOTIA SEA. THE MISSION CONSISTS OF ONE MOTHER SHIP, TWO RESEARCH VESSELS AND SEVERAL TRAWLERS. THEY EXPECT TO CATCH 8,500 TONS OF KRILL. KRILL PRODUCTS ARE ALREADY ON THE MARKET IN JAPAN.

CHILEAN FISHING HAS BEEN WITH THE HELP OF SPANISH TRAWLERS. THE EFFORTS ARE AIMED MAINLY AT KRILL.

3. COMMENT: THE FRG SHOULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED AS AN INTERESTED PARTY. THOUGH PARTICIPATION SO FAR IS ONLY ON A RESEARCH BASIS, THE FRG HAS, AS MENTIONED ABOVE, DEVELOPED THE TECHNOLOGY TO FISH IN THE AREA. OFFICIAL STATED THAT FRG GOVERNMENT WOULD BE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIME FOR THIS AREA.
STOESSEL

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